

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A system for routing a document to a desired location comprising:

means for extracting data from the document to be routed by recognizing information contained in the document with the aid of a computer, the extracted data comprises recognized content of the document and type of the document, the recognized content of the document comprises one or more field names and associated data values representing information from the document, and the type of document comprises a predefined form associated with the document; and

means for routing the document to a first desired location and for routing the recognized content extracted from the document to a second desired location different from the first desired location and the document to one or more desired locations, among a plurality of locations, depending on the type of the document.

2. (currently amended) A system for routing a document to a desired location comprising:

means for extracting data from the document to be routed by recognizing information contained in the document with the aid of a computer, the extracted data comprises recognized content of the document and type of the document, the recognized content of the document comprises one or more field names and associated data values representing information from the document, and the type of document comprises a predefined form associated with the document; and

means for comparing the extracted data to one or more predetermined business rules to determine whether the extracted data complies therewith; and

means for routing the document to a first desired location and for routing the recognized content extracted from the

document to a second desired location different from the first desired location, depending on the type of the document.

3. (currently amended) A system for routing a document to a desired location comprising:

means for receiving the document to be routed, the document being contained on a physical or electronic media;

means for scanning the document and for extracting data from the document by recognizing information contained in the document with the aid of a computer, the extracted data comprises recognized content of the document and type of the document, the recognized content of the document comprises one or more field names and associated data values representing information from the document, and the type of document comprises a predefined form associated with the document;

producing an electronic file comprising data representing the recognized content of the document;

means for validating the data in the electronic file;

means for comparing the validated data to one or more predetermined business rules to determine whether the validated data complies therewith; and

means for routing the document to a first desired location and for routing the compliant data to a second desired location different from the first desired location and the document to one or more desired locations, among a plurality of locations, based upon the type of the document.

4. (original) The system as set forth in claim 3, further comprising means for rejecting noncompliant data and sending a notification of the same to a predetermined address.

5. (original) The system as set forth in claim 3, further comprising means for converting the compliant data into a determined output file format.

6. (original) The system as set forth in claim 3, further comprising means for archiving the compliant data into a database.

7. (previously presented) The system as set forth in claim 3, wherein the document is obtained from an e-mail, a facsimile, or a file transferred by a file transfer protocol.

8. (original) The system as set forth in claim 7, wherein in the case where the document is a facsimile, at least one dedicated inbound telephone number is provided therefor.

9. (previously presented) The system as set forth in claim 3, wherein the scanning means utilizes at least one of an Optical Character Recognition technique, an Image-Character Recognition technique, and an Optical Mark Recognition technique.

10. (previously presented) The system as set forth in claim 5, wherein the output file format is one of American Standard Code for Information Interchange text, American National Standards Institute X.12, Electronic Data Interchange For Administration Commerce And Transport, eXtensible Markup Language, EANCOM, TRADACOMS, Organisation for Data Exchange by Tele Transmission in Europe, and a customer-specified format.

11. (original) The system as set forth in claim 6, wherein the archiving means stores and indexes the data in the database so that the data may be searched for and retrieved.

12. (previously presented) The system as set forth in claim 3, wherein the routing means utilizes a message transport protocol selected from the list consisting of hypertext transfer protocol, simple mail transfer protocol, and file transfer protocol, or secured variants thereof.

13. (original) The system as set forth in claim 3, further comprising means for generating billing records.

14. (original) The system as set forth in claim 6, further comprising means for querying the archive database.

15. (withdrawn) A system for processing a document through a plurality of events, said system comprising:

means for determining status information relating to the processing of the document at one or more of said events; and
means for reporting the status information periodically.

16. (withdrawn) The system as set forth in claim 15, wherein the information includes transaction status, further comprising means for recovering from a transaction having a status identified as failed.

17. (withdrawn) The system as set forth in claim 16, wherein said recovery means corrects the failed transaction, if feasible, and re-injects the corrected transaction into the transaction process.

18. (withdrawn) The system as set forth in claim 15, wherein such information includes one of at least origin, destination, receipt, status, delivery, page count, identification, attempt, and stage.

19. (withdrawn) The system as set forth in claim 15, wherein said events include one of at least document receipt, data extraction, data verification, data transformation, data delivery, and data archiving.

20. (currently amended) A method for routing a document to a desired location comprising the steps of:

extracting data from the document to be routed by recognizing information contained in the document with the aid of a computer, the extracted data comprises recognized content of the document and type of the document, the recognized content of the document comprises one or more field names and associated data values representing information from the document, and the type of document comprises a predefined form associated with the document; and

routing the document to a first desired location, and routing the recognized content extracted from the document to a second desired location different from the first desired location and the document to one or more desired locations, among a plurality of locations, depending on the type of the document.

21. (currently amended) A method for routing a document to a desired location comprising the steps of:

extracting data from the document to be routed by recognizing information contained in the document with the aid of a computer, the extracted data comprises recognized content of the document and type of the document, the recognized content of the document comprises one or more field names and associated data values representing information from the document, and the type of document comprises a predefined form associated with the document; and

comparing the extracted data to one or more predetermined business rules to determine whether the extracted data complies therewith; and

means for routing the document to a first desired location and for routing the recognized content extracted from the document to a second desired location different from the first desired location, depending on the type of the document.

22. (currently amended) A method for routing a document to a desired location comprising the steps of:

receiving the document to be routed, the document being contained on a physical or electronic media;

scanning the document;

extracting data from the scanned document by recognizing information contained in the document with the aid of a computer, the extracted data comprising recognized content of the document and type of the document, the recognized content of the document comprises a plurality of field names and associated data values representing information from the document, and the type of document comprises a predefined form associated with the document;

producing an electronic file including data representing the content of the document;

validating the data in the electronic file;

comparing the validated data to one or more predetermined business rules to determine whether the validated data complies therewith; and

routing the recognized content extracted from the document to a first desired location and routing the document to a second desired location different from said first desired location based upon the type of the document.

23. (withdrawn) An apparatus comprising a processor for processing a document through a plurality of events that when executed, the processor performs the steps of:

determining status information relating to the processing of the document at one or more of said events; and
reporting the status information periodically.

24. (currently amended) A system for routing a document comprising:

at least one processor operable to execute instructions to carry out a method of routing a document, the method comprising:

extracting data from a document by recognizing information contained in the document with the aid of the at least one processor, the extracted data comprising recognized content of the document and type of the document, the recognized content of the document comprises one or more field names and associated data values representing information from the document, and the type of document comprises a predefined form associated with the document,

determining, from the extracted data, one or more desired locations, among a plurality of locations, for each of the recognized content of the document and the document based on the type of document, and

routing the document but not the recognized content extracted from the document to at least a first desired location, and routing the recognized content extracted from the document but not the document to at least a second desired location different from the first desired location and the document to the one or more desired locations.

25. (currently amended) A computer for routing a document to a desired location comprising:

a memory for storing one or more predetermined business rules; and

a processor operable to:

extract data from the document to be routed by recognizing information contained in the document with the aid of the processor, the extracted data comprises recognized content of the document and type of the document, the recognized content of the document comprises one or more field names and associated data values representing information from the document, and the type of document comprises a predefined form associated with the document, and to

compare the extracted data to the one or more predetermined business rules stored in the memory to determine whether the extracted data complies therewith, and to

route the document to a first desired location and route the recognized content extracted from the document to a second desired location different from the first desired location, depending on the type of the document.

26. (currently amended) A method of routing a document to desired location comprising:

receiving the document to be routed, the document containing content and being one of plurality of types;

scanning the document to extract data from the document by recognizing information contained in the document with the aid of a computer, the extracted data comprising recognized content of the document and type of the document, the recognized content of the document comprises one or more field names and associated data values representing information from the document, and the type of document comprises a predefined form associated with the document;

validating the extracted data by comparing the extracted data to one or more predetermined business rules to determine

whether the extracted data complies with the one or more business rules; and

routing the document to a first desired location, and
routing the recognized content extracted from the document to
a second desired location different from the first desired
location and the document to one or more desired locations, among
a plurality of locations, based upon the document's type, the
document's recognized content, and whether the document is
validated.

27. (previously presented) The method of claim 26, wherein the document is received in a physical or electronic media.

28. (previously presented) The method of claim 26, wherein the scanner utilizes at least one of an Optical Character Recognition technique, an Image-Character Recognition technique, and an Optical Mark Recognition technique.

29. (previously presented) The method of claim 26, wherein the type of document is one of the following group of types: tagged image file format, portable document format or a facsimile image.

30. (previously presented) The method of claim 26, further comprising converting the extracted data into one file format if the extracted data is to be used with one type of program or another file format if the extracted data is to be used with another type of program.

31. (previously presented) The system of claim 26, wherein the one or more business rules include algorithms for checking whether the extracted data is complete.

32. (previously presented) The system of claim 26, wherein the one or more business rules include algorithms for checking whether the extracted data is within a range specified by a user.

33. (previously presented) The system of claim 26, wherein the one or more business rules include algorithms for checking whether the extracted data is in a format specified by a user.

34. (previously presented) The system of claim 1, the content of the document is extracted based on the predefined form.

35. (previously presented) The system of claim 2, the content of the document is extracted based on the predefined form.

36. (previously presented) The system of claim 3, the content of the document is extracted based on the predefined form.

37. (previously presented) The method of claim 20, the content of the document is extracted based on the predefined form.

38. (previously presented) The method of claim 21, the content of the document is extracted based on the predefined form.

39. (previously presented) The method of claim 22, the content of the document is extracted based on the predefined form.

40. (previously presented) The system of claim 24, the content of the document is extracted based on the predefined form.

41. (previously presented) The computer of claim 25, the content of the document is extracted based on the predefined form.

42. (previously presented) The method of claim 26, the content of the document is extracted based on the predefined form.

43. (new) The method of claim 20, wherein the information is recognized by use of Optical Character Recognition technique.

44. (new) The method of claim 20, wherein the information is recognized by use of Image-Character Recognition technique.

45. (new) The method of claim 20, wherein the information is recognized by use of Optical Mark Recognition technique.